

WHALES

- Sperm whales
- Baleen whales (Mysticetes)
- Beaked whales

**An identification guide for observers in the
PIRO Observer Programs**

Sperm Whale



Sperm Whales

JAR





Sperm Whale





Sperm Whale

Sperm Whale





Sperm Whale

Sperm Whale



Sperm Whales JAR



Pygmy Sperm Whale

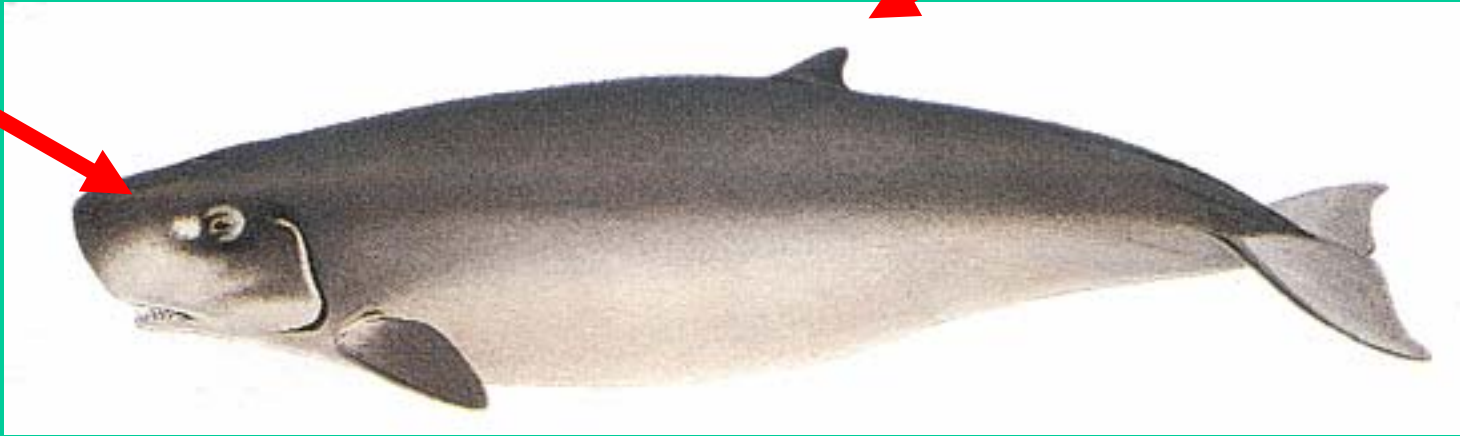


Like both *Kogia spp.*, this species has a noticable false gill mark and a small underslung lower jaw.

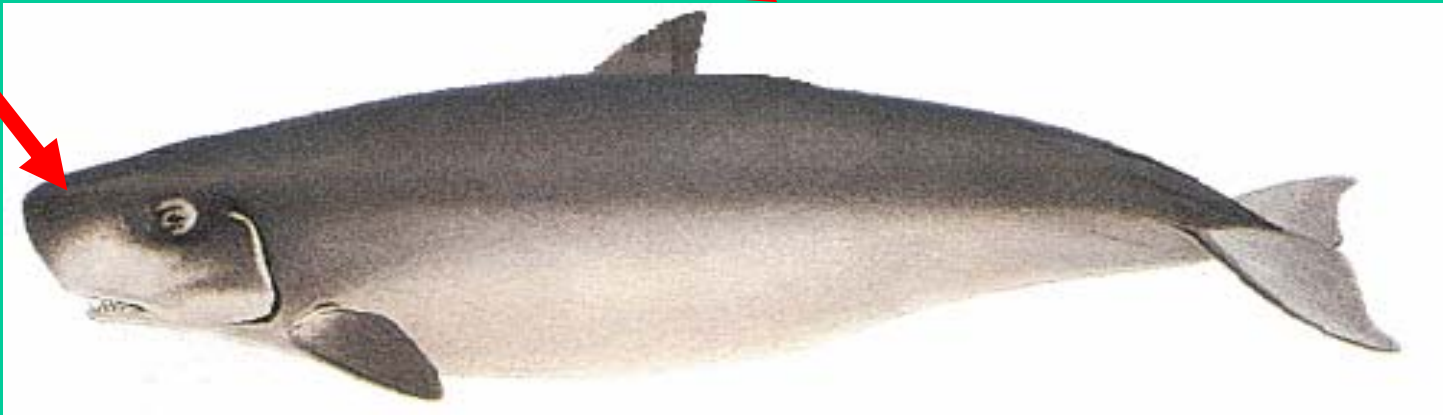
The Pygmy sperm whale has a small dorsal fin and a white-light colored spot in front of each eye.



Dwarf Sperm Whale

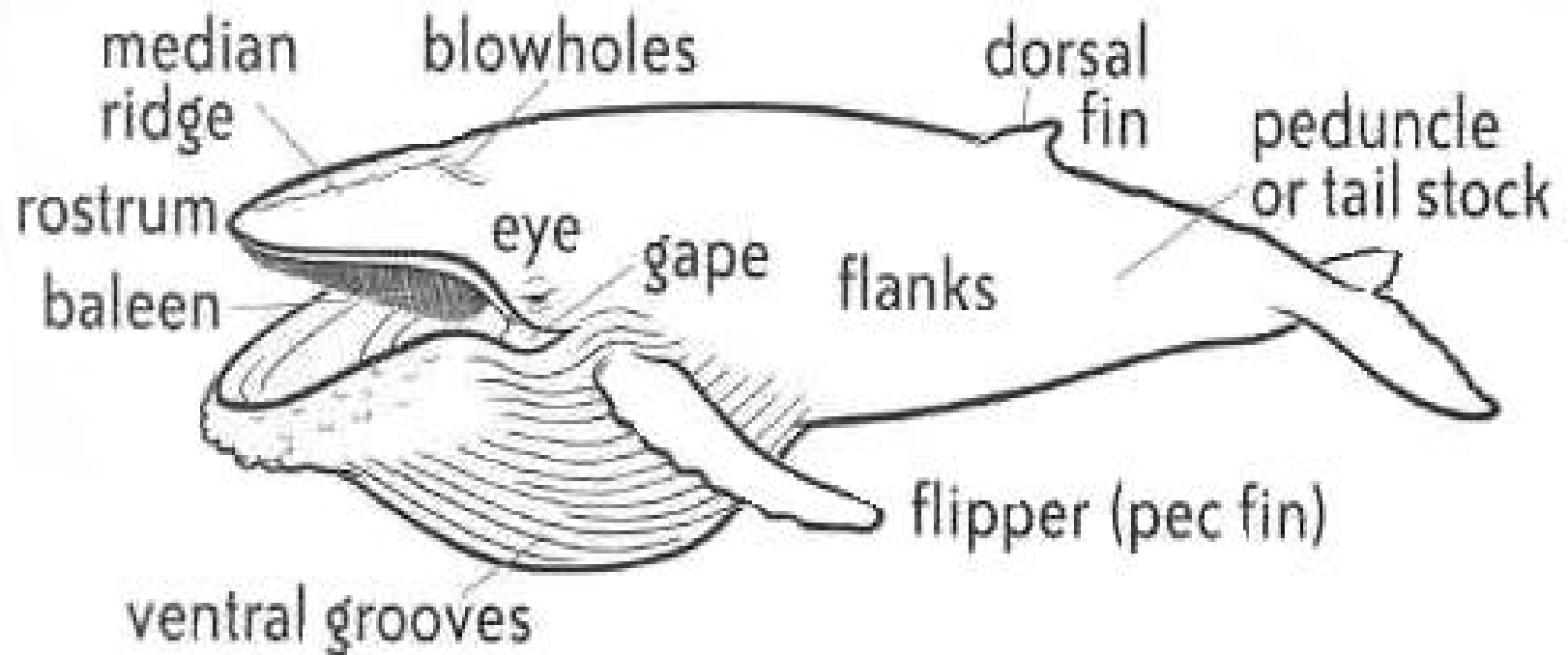


Pygmy sperm whale



Dwarf sperm whale

Mysticete (baleen whale)





Grey Whale

Grey
Whale





Grey Whale

Grey Whale





Grey Whale

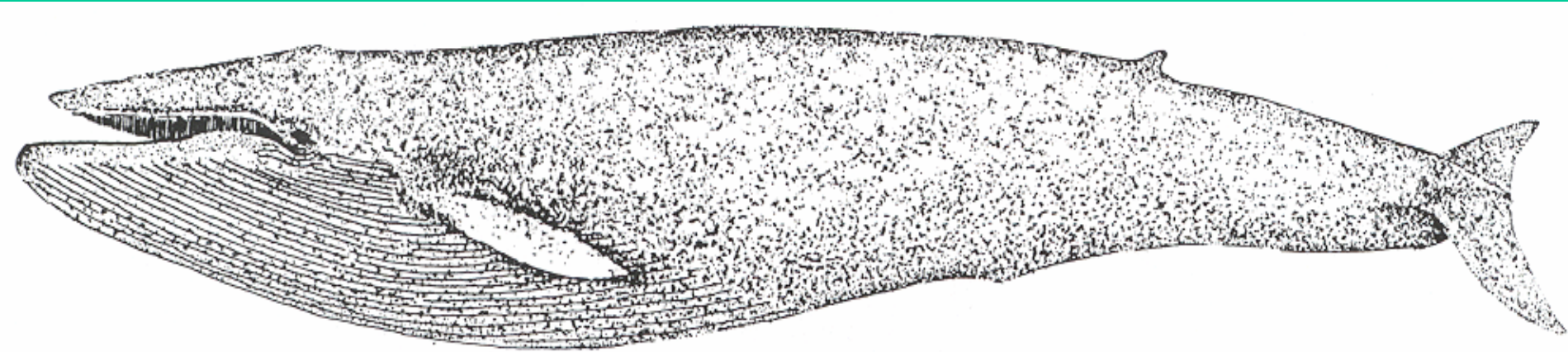
Grey Whale



Grey Whale



Blue Whale



Blue whales are the largest of the baleen whales. Some useful field marks to identify them are:

- the head is 25% of the body length.**
- the dorsal fin is $\frac{3}{4}$ back from the head.**
- the main body color is a mottled blue-gray**

Blue Whale



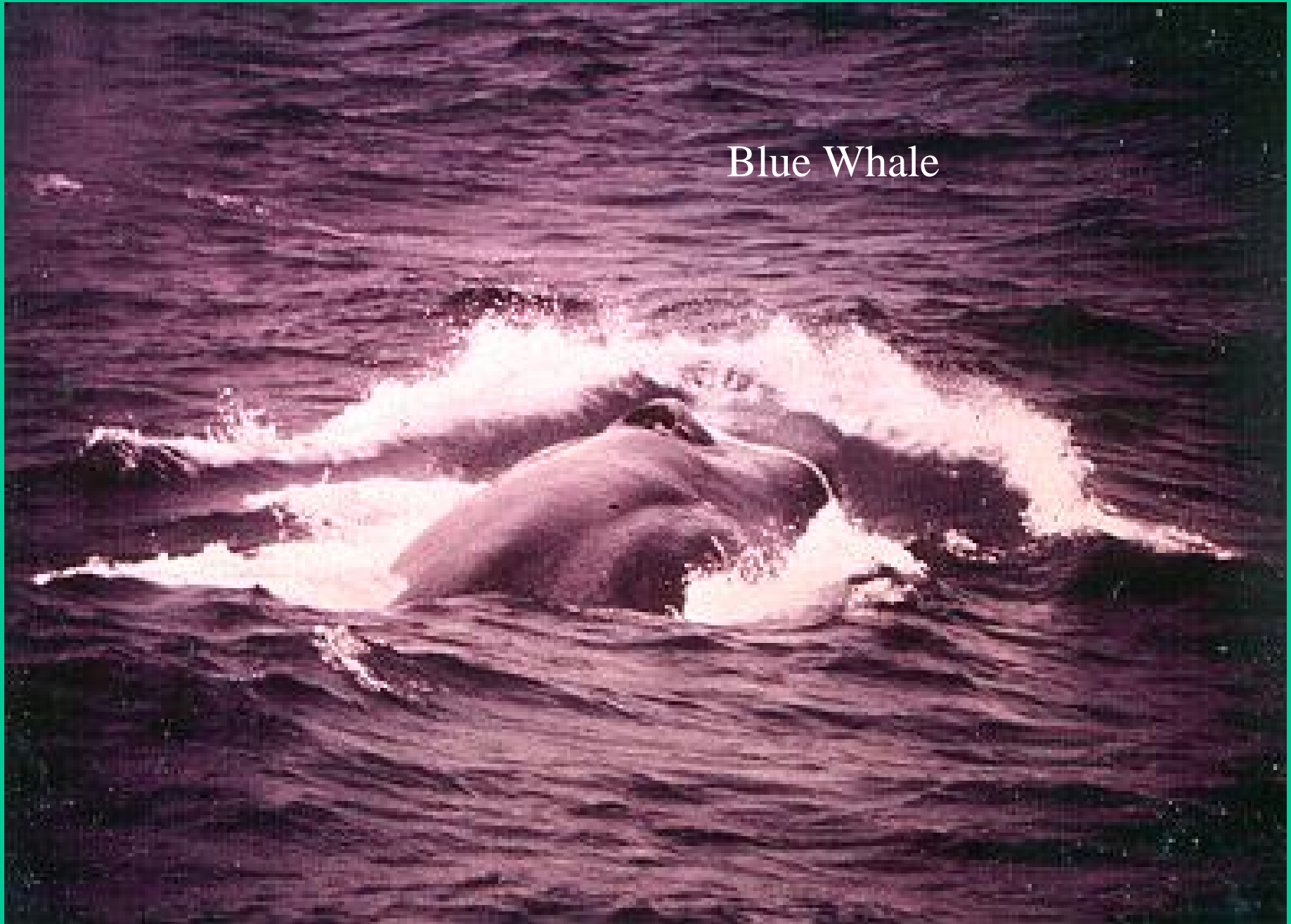


Blue Whale

Blue Whale



Blue Whale



Blue Whale





Blue Whale

Blue Whale





Blue Whale JAR

A large blue whale is seen swimming in the ocean. The whale's back is visible above the water, showing a dark, mottled pattern. The water is a deep blue with small, white-capped waves. The whale is moving from left to right across the frame.

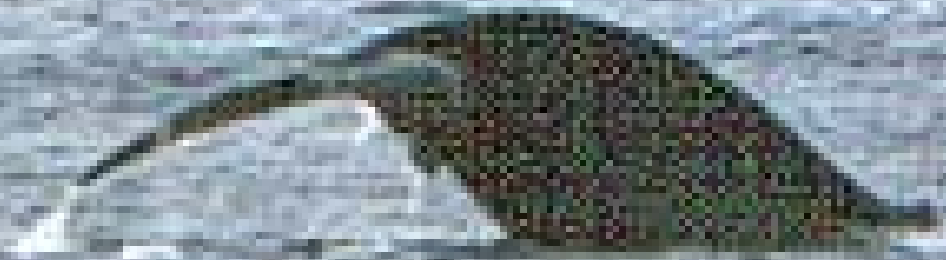
Blue Whale IAR



Blue Whale IAR

A large blue whale is captured in the middle of a breaching event. The whale's dark, triangular back is visible above the water, and a massive, white, turbulent splash of water is erupting from the point of exit. The surrounding ocean is a deep blue with small, choppy waves. The text "Blue Whale JAR" is overlaid in the lower center of the image.

Blue Whale JAR



Blue Whale JAR

Minke Whale





Minke Whale

(Southern hemisphere species, with white shoulder)



Minke Whale

Minke
Whale



A photograph of a Minke Whale swimming in the ocean. The whale is dark grey or black, with a prominent dorsal fin visible. It is moving through blue, choppy water, creating a small wake. The text "Minke Whale" is overlaid in the center of the image.

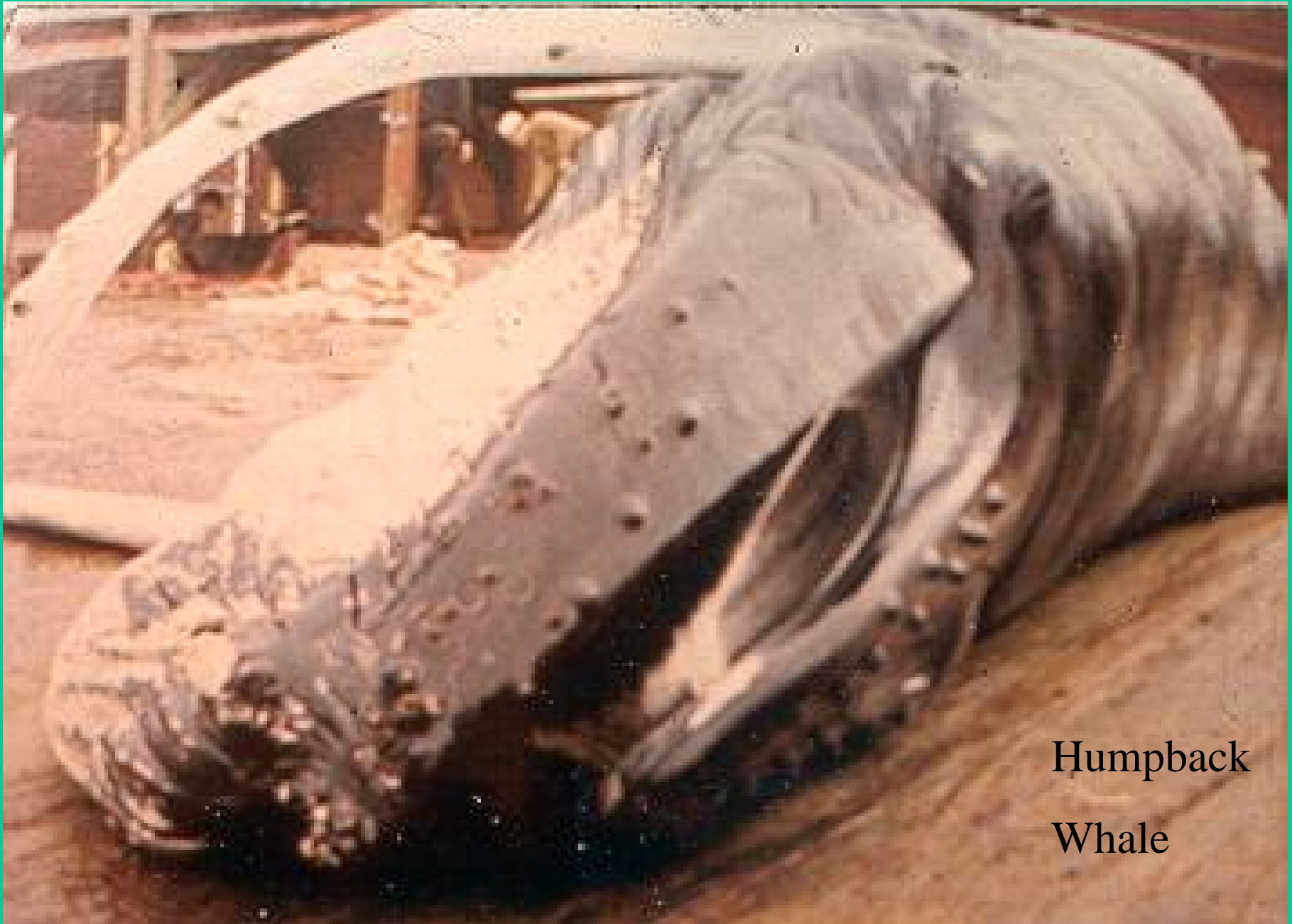
Minke Whale

Minke Whale

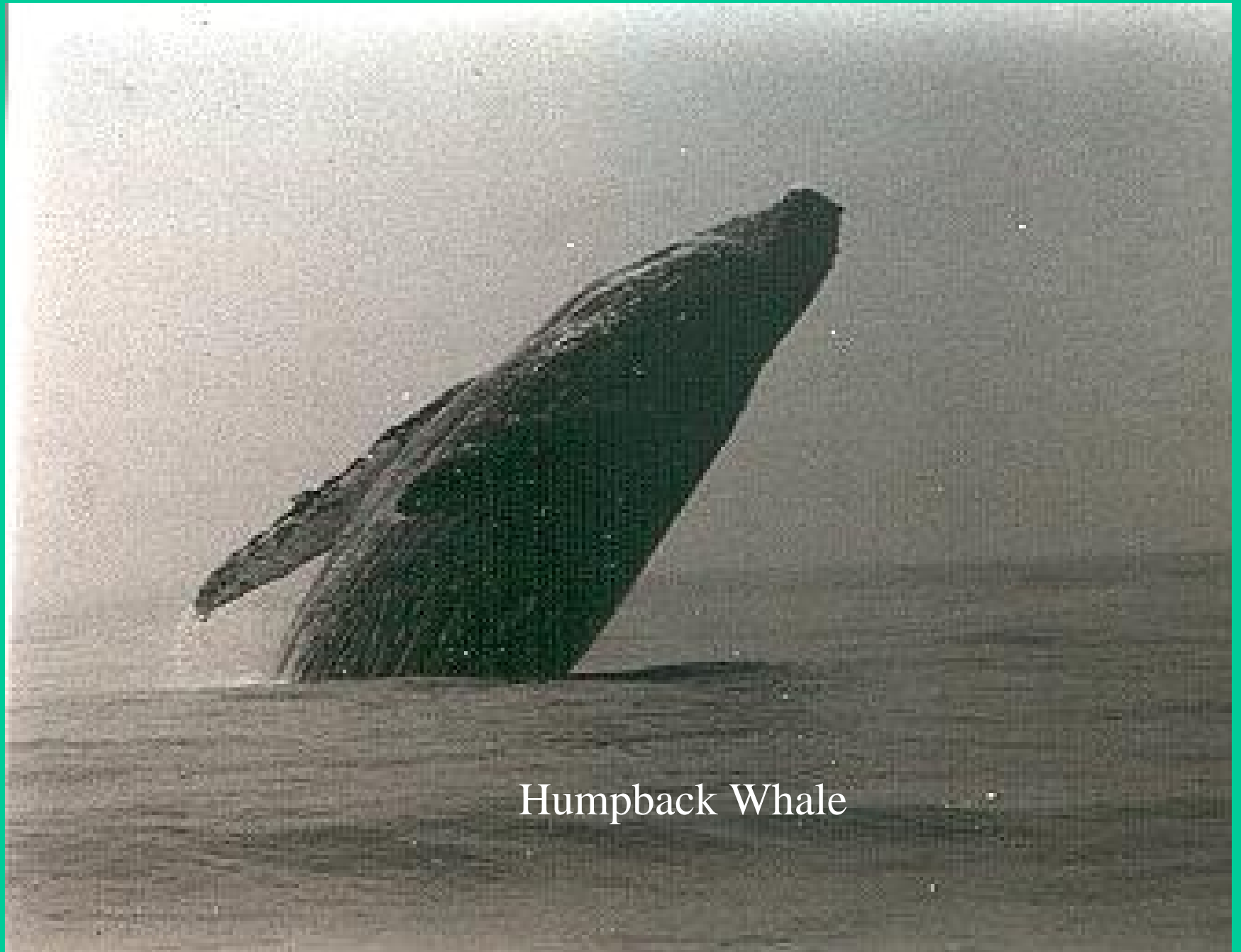


Humpback Whale



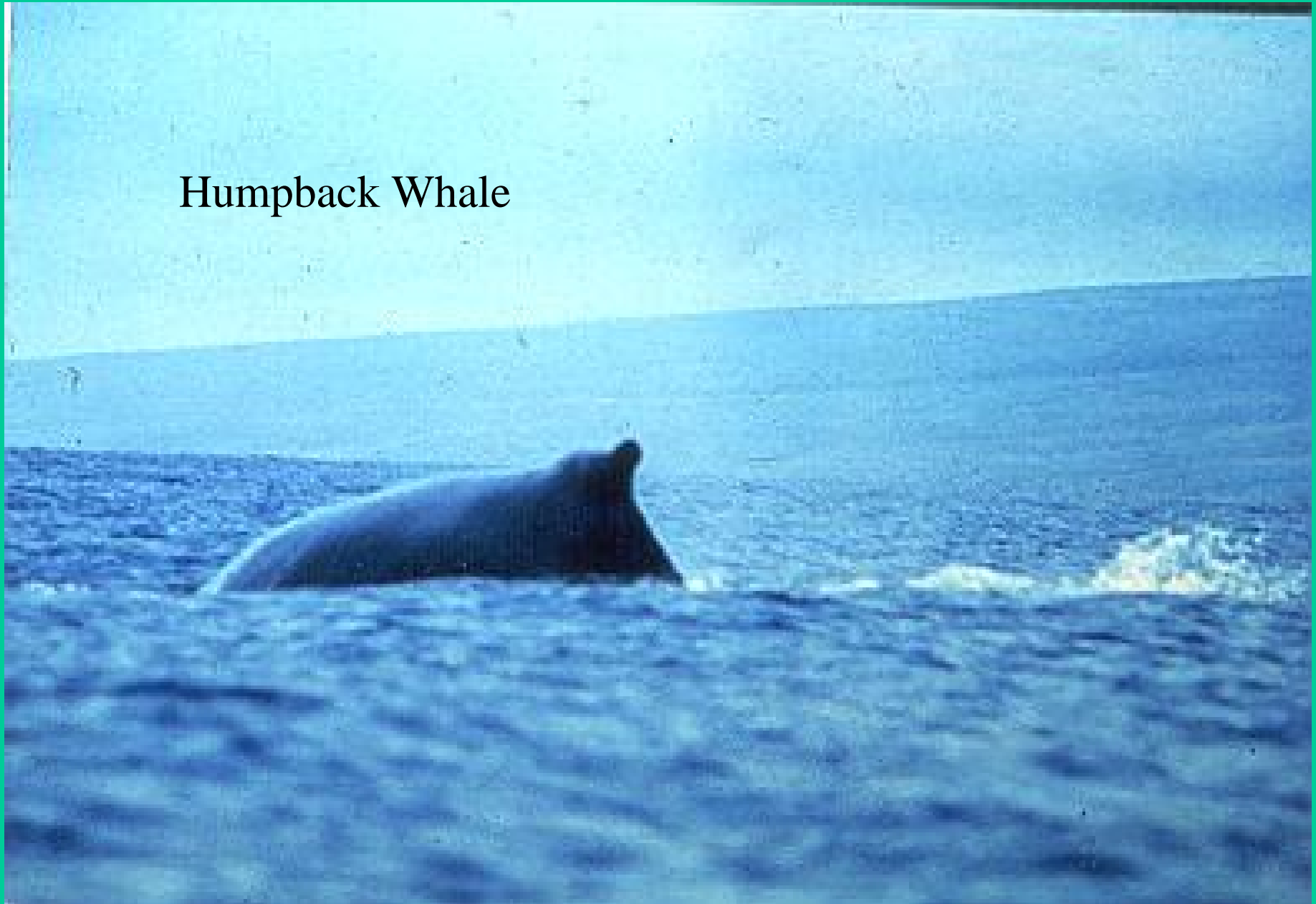


Humpback
Whale



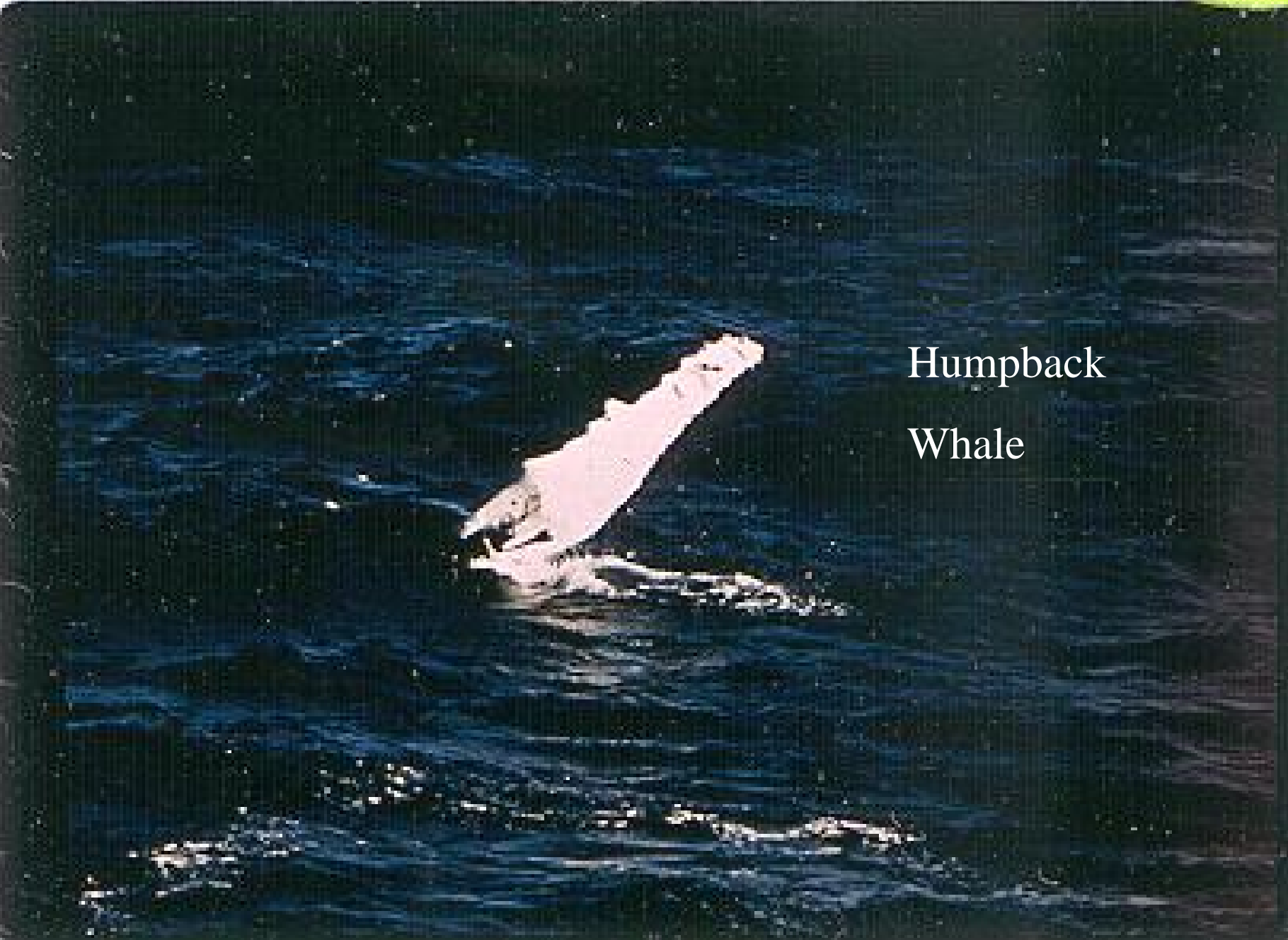
Humpback Whale

Humpback Whale





Humpback Whale



Humpback
Whale

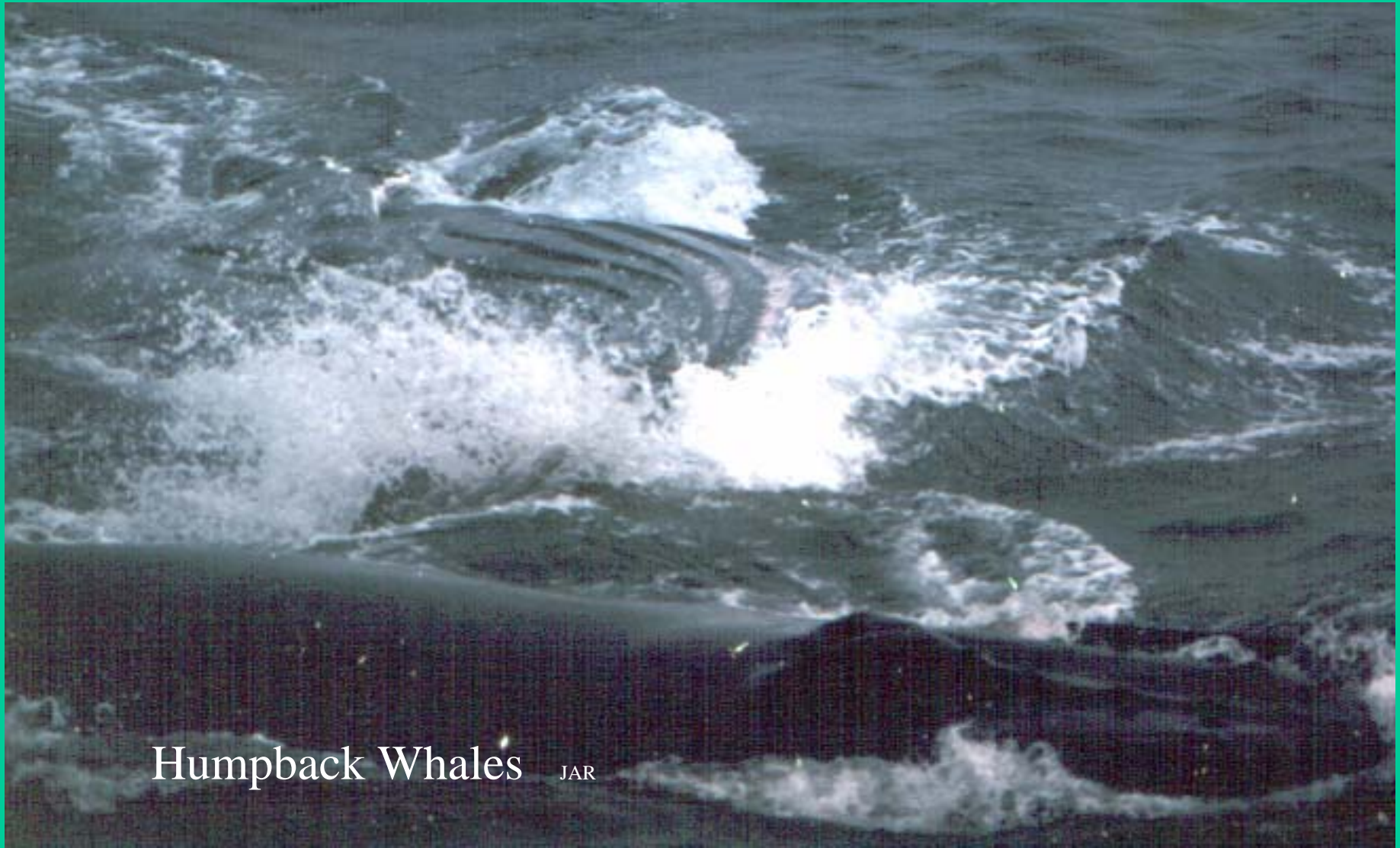


Humpback Whale

Humpback Whale

JAR

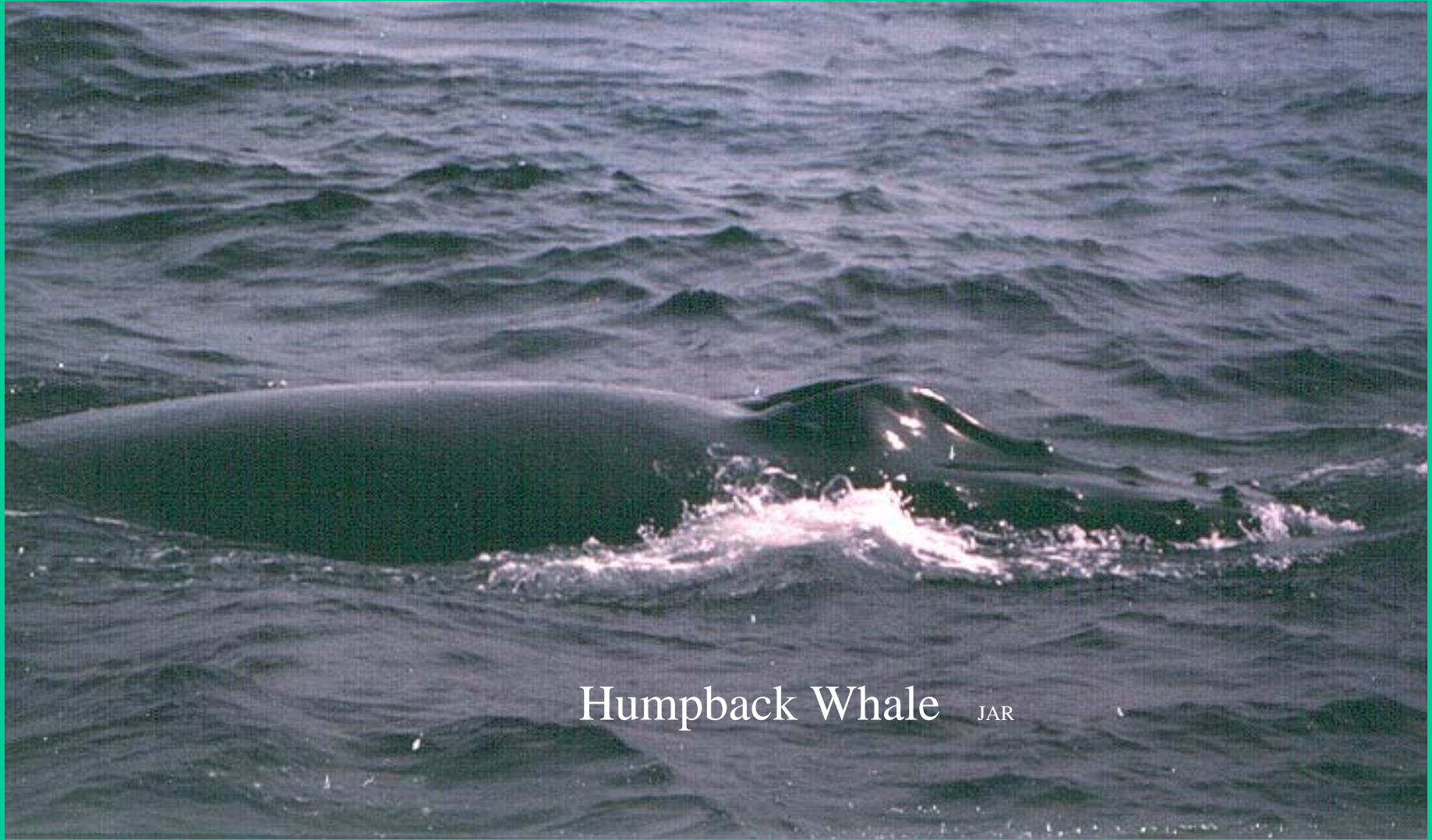




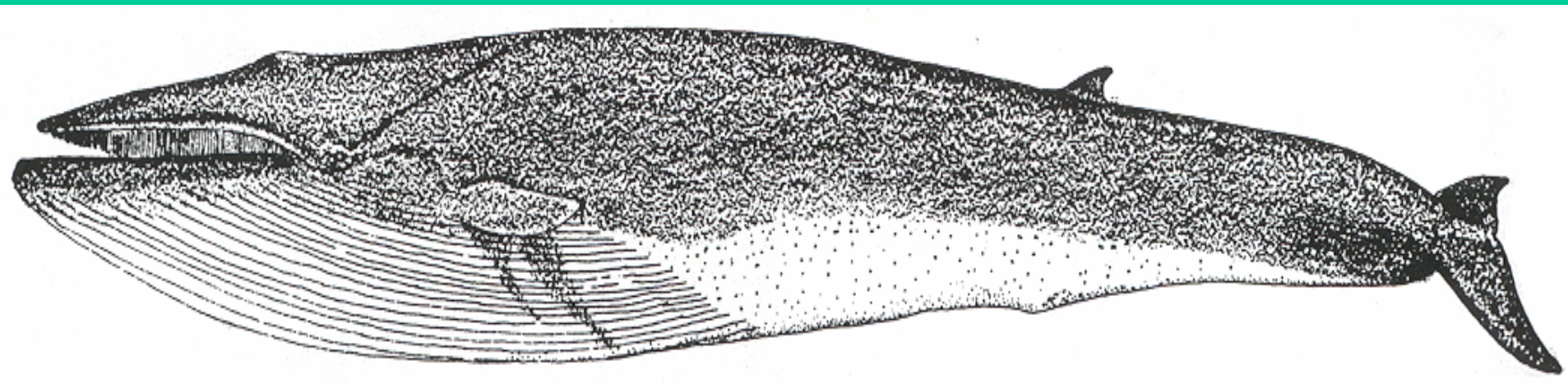
Humpback Whales JAR



Humpback Whale JAR



Humpback Whale JAR



Fin Whale

**Young Fin whale
showing asymmetrical
coloration of lower jaw.**



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Image courtesy of Center For Coastal Studies

Single median ridge on rostrum.

Right lower jaw
is white.



Underside of Fin whale flukes. Note dark edge.



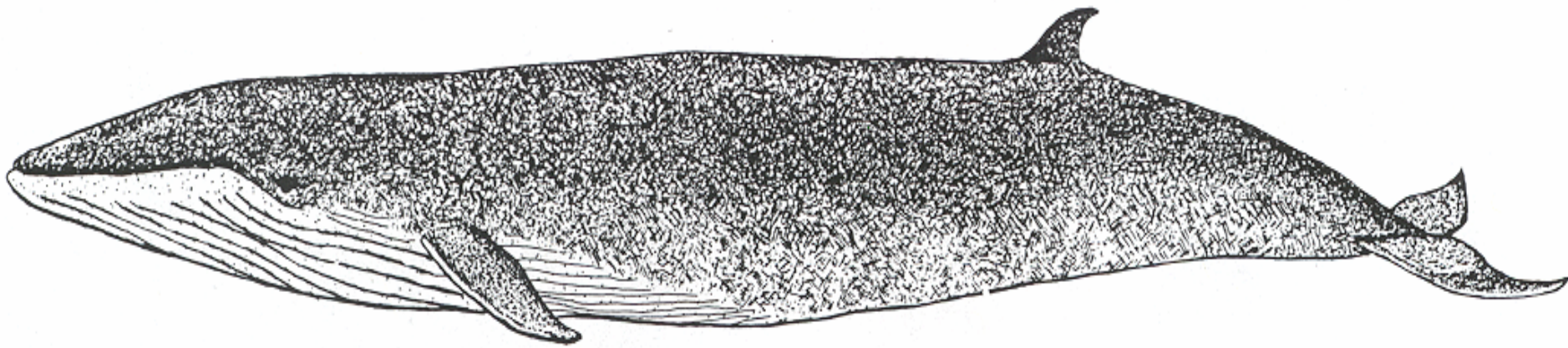
Image courtesy of Center For Coastal Studies

Fin whale cow & calf pair



Pod of Fin whales





Bryde's Whale

Bryde's Whale.

**Note 3 distinct ridges on
rostrum.**



Image courtesy of R. Pittman, NMFS, La Jolla

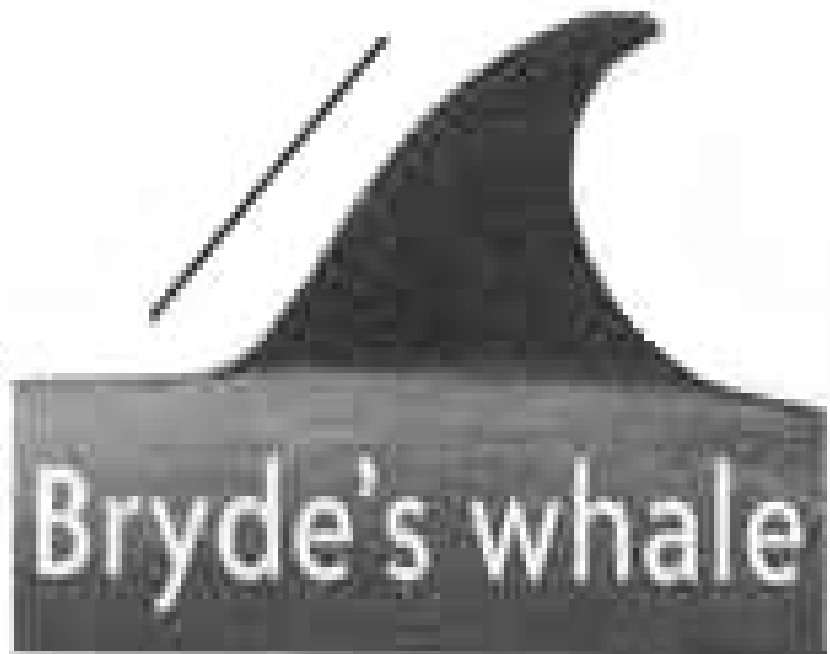
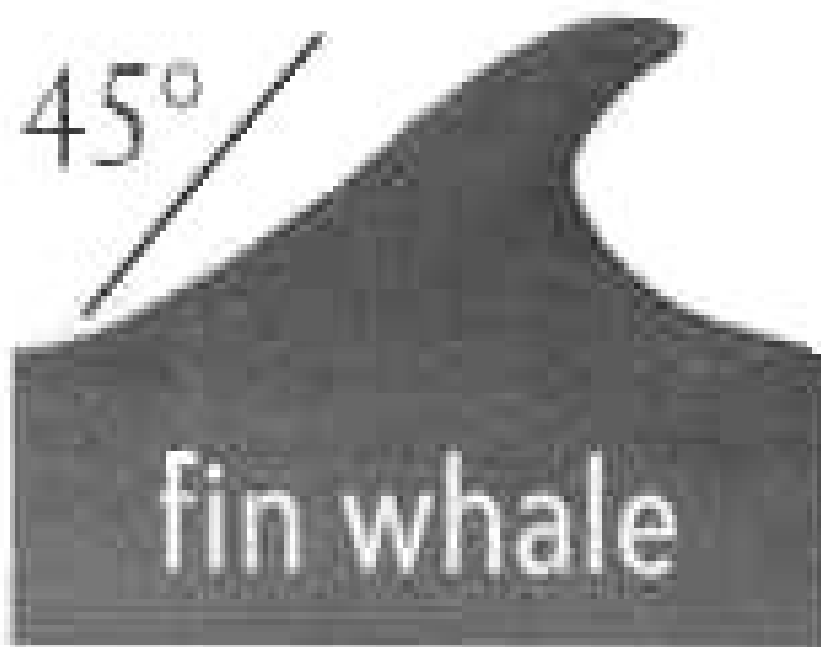
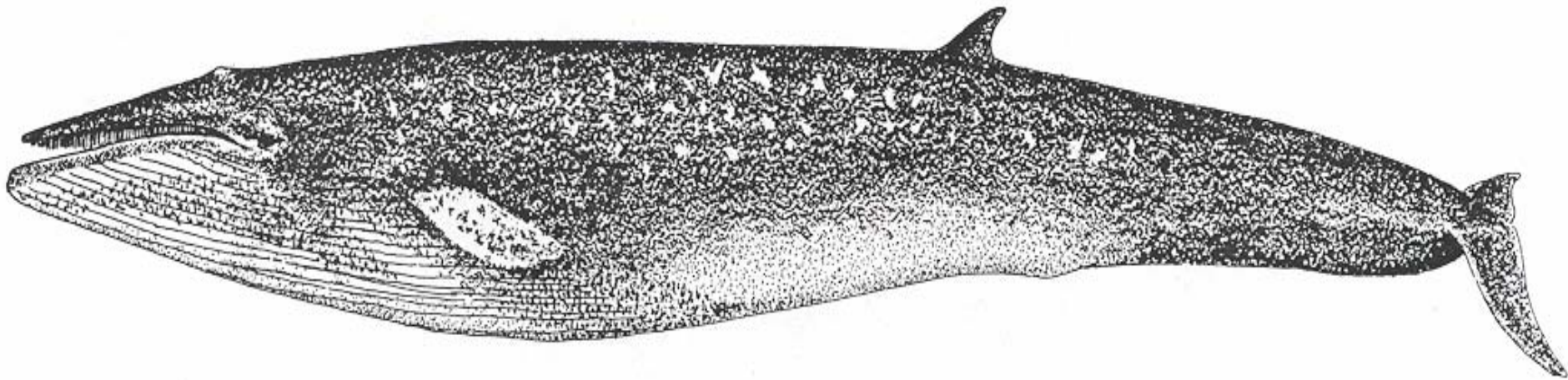


Image from *Marine Mammals of the North Eastern Pacific and Adjacent Arctic Waters, An Identification Guide* by Alaska Sea Grant

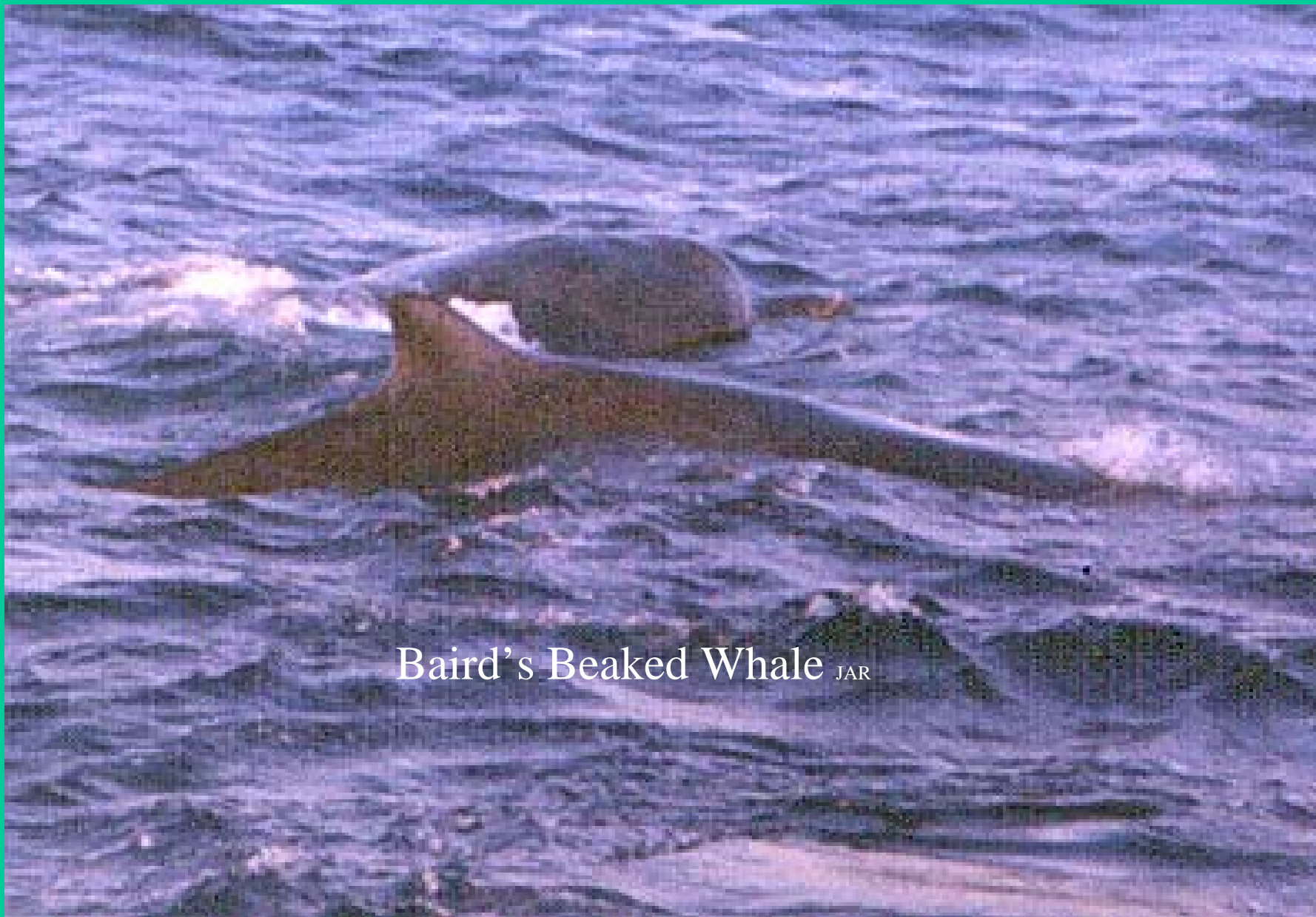
The dorsal fins of the fin whale & Bryde's whales.



Sei Whale



Sei Whale. Single distinct ridge on rostrum.



Baird's Beaked Whale JAR

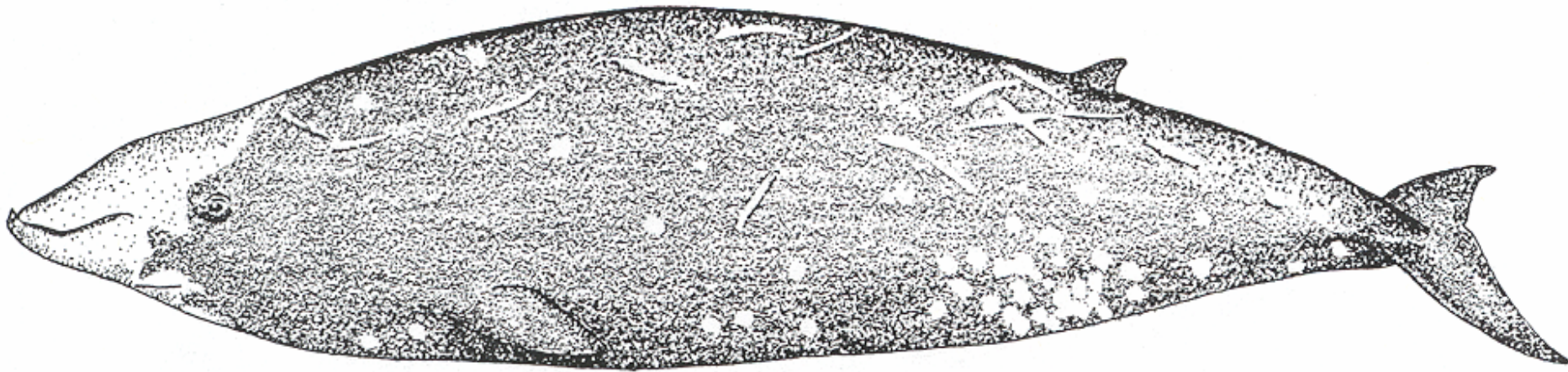


Baird's Beaked Whale JAR

Baird's Beaked Whale

JAR



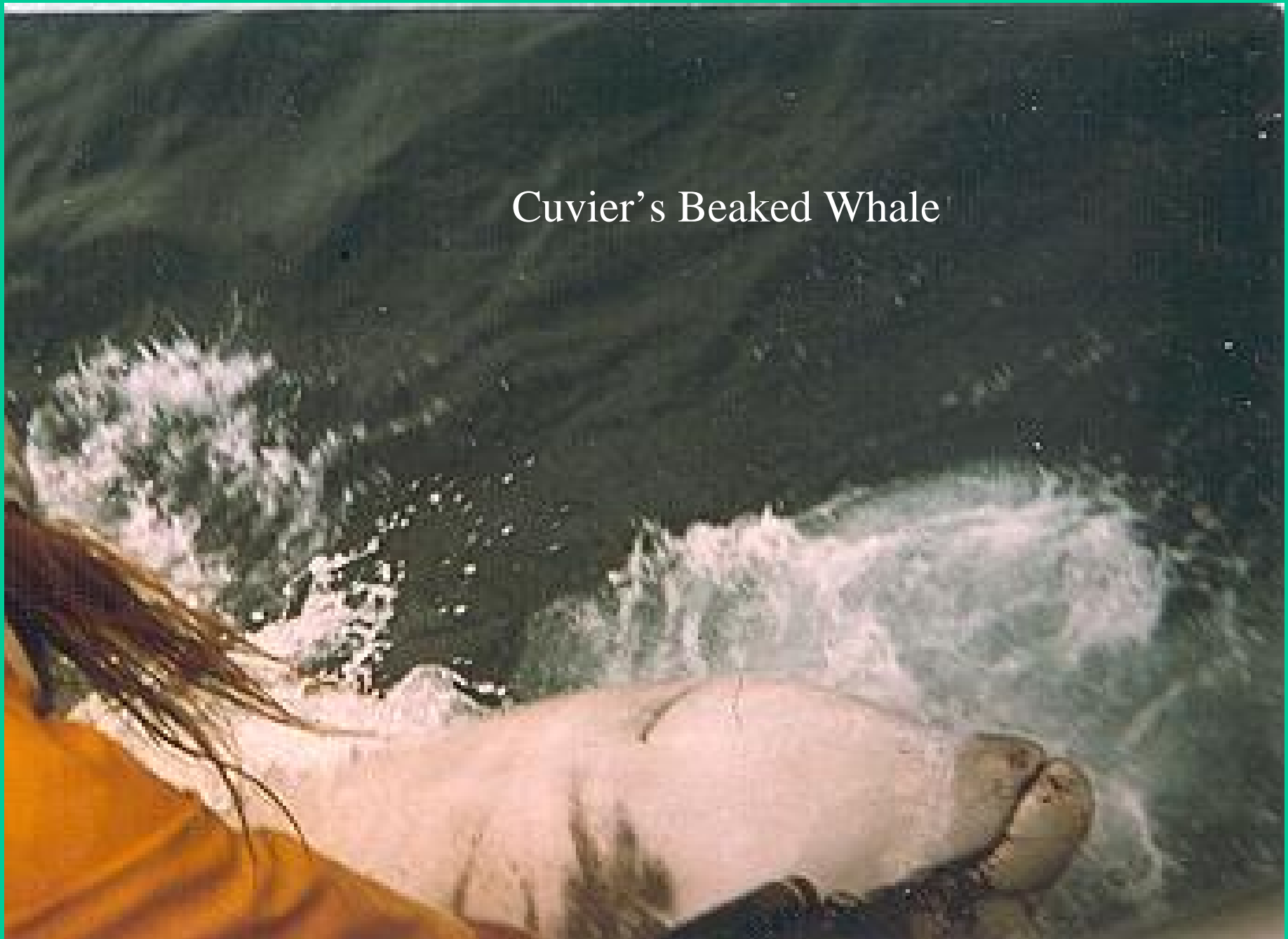


Cuvier's Beaked Whale



Cuvier's Beaked Whale

Cuvier's Beaked Whale





Cuvier's Beaked Whale



Unid. Beaked whale. *Mesoplodon* spp. (pos. Blainville's)